



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

BUTCHER et al

Atty. Ref.: 550-541; Confirmation No. 4617

Appl. No. 10/807,498

TC/A.U.

Filed: March 24, 2004

Examiner:

For: NULL EXCEPTION HANDLING

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July 29, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows: